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COMMERCIAL, Pittsburgh.

OUR CLAIMS ON ENGLAND.

SPEECH OF HON. CHAS. SUMNER, OF MASSACHUSETTS,

In Executive Session of the Senate, April 13, 1869,

On the Johnson-Clarendon Treaty for the Settlement of Claims.

[Discussion of various proposals by order of the Senate.]

MR. SUMNER. Mr. President, a report recommending that the Senate go into executive session for the purpose of taking up a Foreign Treaty, duly submitted to the Senate, is, of course, a matter of importance. Treaties are often important, and sometimes they are unimportant; sometimes they are of great importance, and sometimes without any recommendation; but I do not recall an instance, since I came into the Senate, where a treaty has been brought in with the recommendation which is now under consideration. I cannot but think that the Senate will justify the exceptional report. The question presented is not limited in its consideration to that time of the Senate, and that alone would justify the exceptional report. The Senate is not to be hurried in the consideration of a question of this magnitude, and there has been no such haste. It is now nearly two months since the treaty was signed by the plenipotentiaries, which accredited high-sounding titles on both sides. It is now nearly a month since it was communicated to the Senate. Surely, there has been time enough for the consideration of a question of this magnitude, and there have been many days when the Senate could have entered upon it. I do not think that the Senate is

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1869.

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE?

There is little use in continually calling attention to the degeneracy of the times as seen in legislative corruption—every year growing worse and worse—if the people fail to apply the only remedy, which they hold in their own hands. It is the constitutional boast of those who engineer Caucus and make tickets that party discipline will carry almost any candidate through, and that, in nine cases out of ten, be the dissatisfaction ever so great, it will end in nothing worse than growls, and nobody hurt. Whatever truth there is in this boast, it cannot be denied that it is because the people have chosen to have it so. It must be found, therefore, that the people have themselves to blame for being annually outraged by a corrupt Legislature passing all manner of iniquitous laws, making our legislative halls a market house for buying and selling representatives. The question, who is responsible, is easily answered. Even now party leaders who make brokerage of the offices, by packing conventions and engineering nominations, are busy at their old game, and doubtless, as before, as long as the people, after the usual amount of bluff finding and the customary threats of finding all sorts of wonderful things in order to break up the abominable practice, will fall into line and thus accord another term to the corruptionists. The responsibility rests with those who do fail in and afford the help which is necessary to a repetition of the corruption and outrages which annually curse the land to be filled with curses. The circumstances attending elections for the last few years have been exceptional. An unprecedented state of things has existed in the paramount necessity imposed by great issues which momentarily are dead and will no longer compel men to tolerate and connive at a thousand evils which though great were minor ones compared to the overshadowing one question now at issue. Reconstruction, and what it was the duty of every patriot to consider. These have, therefore, been some excuse, and there is perhaps a sufficient reason why legislative corruption has not been rebuked by the swift and certain defeat of the gilms of corrupt leaders who have participated in those wrongs behind a lofty cause. But times have changed. That cause is now secure. The time is now fully come for cutting the cords which have become well nigh unbearable, and to cure which it is the imperative duty of patriots to combine together. We are sincerely thankful that there are signs that the days of more growling are drawing to a close, and that we are entering on a period when the unfair doing of Conventions, engineered in the interest of corrupt leaders, will not be supported; when the discipline which has heretofore availed to whip everybody into line will prove no better than a rope of sand. While the overshadowing issues of the war were not yet disposed of, the very patriotism and virtue of the people, through the arts of professional leaders and engineers, were made to bring curses on the country. In the furnish of the principles involved in those issues has been secured the opportunity for applying the only remedy that can be desired for the degeneracy of the times—the independent action of the people, and a refusal, out and out, and from the start, to sanction any nomination that is not fit to be made. The more fully it is realized that the people will take their nominations and their improvements into their own hands, the more danger there will be of any occasion for the independent action necessary to crush out unfair Convention doings. Your leaders and engineers will go anywhere than they think they can whip the people into backing them. The whole thing is with the people, and the leaders and engineers should be powerful only in conformity with the popular will. The machinery whereby Conventions are run and nominations made is all in the hands of the people, and the evils that afflict them are the accessory and pertinacious penalty for neglecting to work it. It is the old story of the primary meetings attended almost solely by the leaders and engineers, not scarcely ever by those who have the most at stake, and are consequently complaining that nominations are bad. Improved systems and modes in the machinery of politics are precious and only somebody must apply it, and under our Republican system, there is no other machinery than that which we the people ourselves possess. To successfully apply it, we must either take the control of conventions or give notice that no improper candidates will be supported, and after having given it, live up to it. If we read the public mind aright, this action the people are preparing resolutely to adopt.

FROM THE WEST TO THE SEABOARD.

The recent movement in St. Louis to give the grain trade of the Mississippi valley to the Mississippi river, and make New Orleans the great distributing point for European shipment, has aroused Chicago to the necessities of the occasion. Its commercial supremacy in the northwest is threatened, as yet only by plausible theories, but theory is the father of practice. The question is a very simple one in all its bearings. The grain crop of the West will obey the one inexorable law of trade, and find the cheapest route to market. The price at the seaboard is the regulator, and this involves the cost of transporting and handling grain from the time it leaves the producer's hands. It is now cheaper to send the wheat crop of Illinois to New York than to the seaboard by whatever route he can be the least money.

St. Louis, uniting with New Orleans, proposes in a very practical manner to show that the Mississippi, from St. Paul to New Orleans, is the natural outlet of the great valley. The question will be tested this summer and fall, and a sufficient capital has been secured at St. Louis and New Orleans to make a diversion in the grain trade that will show the advantages of the new route. So far it is an experiment, but if its advantages can be demonstrated, the consequences upon the carrying trade between the east and the west will be of great moment.

In the meantime, the lake interests are not idle. The Boards of Trade of the lake cities from Oswego to Milwaukee, are uniting in an effort to diminish the cost of transportation, and thus frustrate the plans of the St. Louis people. The prime necessity with the lake cities of the Northwest is a reduction in the rates of freight from and beyond the Rocky pot to their Elevators, and also the securing of more reasonable charges for handling, storage and commission at the Elevators. It costs nearly as much to get wheat from the Mississippi river, at La Crosse or Prairie du Chien to Chicago, as it does to transport it from Chicago to this water. To change this is the objective point of the Boards of Trade. The case is well stated in the Chicago *Tribune* of Tuesday:

"Until our ship canal is completed to the Illinois river, Chicago must depend on the railroads for the transfer of the bulk of the new grain into or ing the cereal treasures of the West. Here bring across the Mississippi river, from the further West, the annual crops. Here are the canals and railroads that afford the most natural straight that the grain may now being to Chicago must stop at the river and find a channel east to the ocean. Will they abandon it for the longer, roundabout route, and go out of grain transportation altogether over these roads? Chicago has no control, but the question is only whether any road running to Chicago is thus content to let cheap rates on grain, as the extent of permitting these business to pass from them to the more lines of boats. The same may be said of lake transportation, and of rail communication from Chicago to the East. The sum is, Chicago cannot keep grain 500 or 1000 miles south or east, if the freight rates and the freight rates increase the price of the grain delivered in New York to an excess over the price of grain delivered there by some other route."

But Chicago, within a year or eighteen months, will have another road for the grain trade of a portion of the Northwest, that now finds railroading in Chicago and the lake ports of Wisconsin. The railroad from the Mississippi river at St. Paul, to the west end of Lake Superior, is now completed fifty miles, and the cars will be running over the whole line by the time of the resumption of lake navigation in 1870. This road is connected with the railroad system of Wisconsin and Northern Iowa and Wisconsin, the most productive grain regions of the Northwest. The west end of Lake Superior is as near New York by water carriage, as Chicago is, and the wheat raised in Minnesota and some parts of Wisconsin and Iowa can reach Du Luth, the railroad terminus on Lake Superior, much cheaper than it can Chicago, the railroad terminus on Lake Michigan.

Chicago will be—is now—a great city, but it will fall in its endeavor to monopolize or even advantage growing out of the wonderful development of the West promised within the next few years, as a consequence of the completion of the Pacific roads. This very development will require many outlets, and its advantages will through it, be beneficently distributed over many sections of it in many cities. For the great tide of travel and commerce traversing the continent, the interior will not afford a stopping place. The objective points will be on the Atlantic and the Pacific, and everything else will be more or less in the nature of mere way stations.

SUPPORTING POLITICAL PAPER.

The story that a petition had been circulated in one of the State Legislatures, since the fourth of March, ostensibly for the purpose of securing an office for a greedy applicant, but in reality praying that capital punishment should be inflicted upon one of the members—who even signed the petition for the stretching of his own neck—was a very fair salute on the facility with which infamous bores secure the inducement for the support of political paper. Jesse wants an office, and the ability to manage the signatures of his own clique, but there are other citizens whose autographs would help Jesse amazingly, and as he cannot approach them for the purpose, he finds a friend, finds a politician and a "good fellow," but a little higher up in the social scale, to circulate his documents. This the obliging friend readily agrees to, and secures for Jesse, on the strength of his personal reputation, some very good names. And presently Jesse gets the appointment through the influence of men who would not trust him with a saw mill, if it was of the description or property in which Mr. Wanamaker owns the name of "portable." Disclosures within the past week have shown that General Grant has been deceived by just such means into the appointment of unworthy men—men who are unfit for the positions they occupy, and whose appointments have been secured by just such means as this. Time, therefore, has come excuse, and there is perhaps a sufficient reason why legislative corruption has not been rebuked by the swift and certain defeat of the gilms of corrupt leaders who have participated in those wrongs behind a lofty cause. But times have changed. That cause is now secure. The time is now fully come for cutting the cords which have become well nigh unbearable, and to cure which it is the imperative duty of patriots to combine together. We are sincerely thankful that there are signs that the days of more growling are drawing to a close, and that we are entering on a period when the unfair doing of Conventions, engineered in the interest of corrupt leaders, will not be supported; when the discipline which has heretofore availed to whip everybody into line will prove no better than a rope of sand. While the overshadowing issues of the war were not yet disposed of, the very patriotism and virtue of the people, through the arts of professional leaders and engineers, were made to bring curses on the country. In the furnish of the principles involved in those issues has been secured the opportunity for applying the only remedy that can be desired for the degeneracy of the times—the independent action of the people, and a refusal, out and out, and from the start, to sanction any nomination that is not fit to be made. The more fully it is realized that the people will take their nominations and their improvements into their own hands, the more danger there will be of any occasion for the independent action necessary to crush out unfair Convention doings. Your leaders and engineers will go anywhere than they think they can whip the people into backing them. The whole thing is with the people, and the leaders and engineers should be powerful only in conformity with the popular will. The machinery whereby Conventions are run and nominations made is all in the hands of the people, and the evils that afflict them are the accessory and pertinacious penalty for neglecting to work it. It is the old story of the primary meetings attended almost solely by the leaders and engineers, not scarcely ever by those who have the most at stake, and are consequently complaining that nominations are bad. Improved systems and modes in the machinery of politics are precious and only somebody must apply it, and under our Republican system, there is no other machinery than that which we the people ourselves possess. To successfully apply it, we must either take the control of conventions or give notice that no improper candidates will be supported, and after having given it, live up to it. If we read the public mind aright, this action the people are preparing resolutely to adopt.

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ENGLAND'S RESPONSE.

England has been heard from on the question of the Alabama Treaty. Lord Stanley, speaking not without authority says he relies in the good sense of the American people—which is the best thing he could place his faith in—and don't believe there is going to be serious trouble, or if anything of the sort should arise, England, he says, will let the outside world see how she looks when she "shows a united front." When his Lordship spoke the real position of the United States, as described in Mr Sumner's speech, was not fully known to him, otherwise he would, perhaps, have spoken in a less confident tone. The London *Times*, however, writes under a pretty positive information as to our position, and, presuming the British Lion shows its teeth charmingly. The Treaty at issue, says the *Times*, England's duty "will simply be to abstain altogether from further overtures, and let any proposals for a renewal of negotiations proceed from the American Government. In such an event, negotiations are not likely to proceed at all, and the whole matter will be suffered to rest till a moment when per for all changes will be taken, "the kind." If England can afford to wait, certainly we should not be in a hurry. By this time the *Times* has probably suffered a generous disappointment, for in the article here quoted from it expresses its total dislike that "President Grant's government contemplates a course of action so unfriendly and offensive" as that which has since been proclaimed as the policy of the Administration. Should, however, such a policy be pursued as England, she would "know how to treat it." All of this means that the British Lion is disposed to be fair-ous, and that the relations between the two countries are about to become uncommonly interesting.

HENRY A. WISE, of Virginia, has written a letter to the editor of a Methodist Southern paper, published in Atlanta, Ga., in which he develops some notable views on the subject of the abolition of slavery. He believes that it could only have been accomplished, as it was, by the "fire and sword of war." This he holds to be confirmation that the conscience of the South would never have rebelled against the sin of human slavery, and is confirmed by the fact that for more than thirty years prior to the election of Mr Lincoln in 1860, the united efforts of Southern leaders were for the extension of the institution into the Territories of the West, and the outlying territory of Texas. Mr Wise on this point says:

"The long agitation of the question of slavery, the conflicts in the halls of Congress, the irritation that at one time from African bondage throughout the South, the fanaticism that invaded the pulpit, even the John Brown raid into Virginia, could not and did not unite the South in a constitutional resistance to abolitionism in a country politically constituted as ours is. It was the fanatical combination against the constitutional rights of the South in the Presidential election of 1860 that united the South and the States would never have united but for that fanatical success. Secession was the only remedy left to the South for averting the consummation of abolition. The secession act was largely the legitimate result of conferring on them virtually the right to select persons for nominal Executive patronage. Acting generally from an interested motive, and frequently deficient in judgment, the public service is too often quite left out of the account. With the idea of a re-election first in view, and in some instances, it is probable, even a more sordid motive animating them, the President must necessarily, in some cases, be easily imposed upon —a fact that he is finding out, as is evident from the withdrawals and even remonstrance that have already taken place. It is one of his distinct promises that he will promptly so modify whatever is proper in the policy he has made. It is hardly possible that he will ever know more than a part of the cases where he has been imposed upon; but he will find out the worst, and it is for this reason that we feel entirely confident that the official life of some who now soiree in undeserved prosperity will be short.

It is said that President Grant has become so much impressed with the evils resulting from special legislation by Congress, that he will give to the subject particular attention in his first message. The public mind is being drawn to this subject and to the necessity of guarding against special legislation by the future. But the people would not be left to enter the ground with their power, independent of the counsels which leaders have so long proposed to exercise their purposes in choosing Legislatures and Governors. There are times when justice becomes so nearly exhausted that there is no other resort than to the ballot box. They have the supreme power, and are responsible for the exercise. The issues of other discussion and action are to be left to the people, and not to the power of the President to remove without the consent of the Senate.

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GUBERNATORIAL.

THE Huntingdon *Globe* of this week nominates Hon. Daniel J. Morrell, member of Congress from the Seventeenth District, for Governor subject to the decision of the Republican State Convention, and gives the following reasons:

1st. We are tired of men who do not understand what the people of the State, want.

2d. Mr. Morrell is a business man.

3d. We want a business man in the Executive chair.

4th. Mr. Morrell is one of the largest manufacturers in the State, and is intimately acquainted with the wants of business men.

5th. He has always been a tariff man.

6th. He knows the laboring man, and has the ability to inaugurate measures calculated to benefit the laboring man as well as the manufacturer.

7th. He is a statesman without being a politician in the general acceptation of the term.

For these and many other reasons we urge the people of the State to consider the claims of Mr. Morrell, who has proved himself to have been eminently satisfactory to the people of Pennsylvania. No man in Congress stands higher than Mr. Morrell, and the Fifth District, for financial ability, and no man is looked up to for legislative aid in Congress more than he is, and he will be with more attending than the Hon. D. J. Morrell.

THE Harrisburg *Republican* suggests and highly endorses General John H. Hartranft as the Republican candidate for Governor.

A CONFEDERACY of the British West India Islands, in imitation of the not very successful experiment in the colonies north of us, is said to be under discussion by the Legislatures. The contemplated confederacy will have two subordinate Legislatures, one in Jamaica, which will include the Bermudas, Bahamas, and Turks and Caicos groups, and the other comprising Antigua, Dominica, St. Christopher, Anguilla, Montserrat, Nevis, Barbuda, and the Virgin Islands, also British Honduras in Yucatan; and Trinidad, Tobago, Grenada, the Windward Islands, Barbadoes, St. Vincent, Tobago, Grenada and St. Lucia, as also Trinidad and British Guiana, with the seat of the Legislature at Barbadoes. Confederation don't seem to agree with the Dominion, for Nova Scotia and Prince Edwards Islands are endeavoring to cover the bonds that unite them to the to isolation of Canada, and "annexation to the United" is now a favorite topic with the Blue Noses, who decried it as treason a few years ago.

MR. EVERETT JOHNSON'S Newcastle speech was of prodigious length. One of the London papers, which having Democratic sympathies can hardly generally admired His Excellency, and "took to it" as a duck to water. He is said to do his best all day, with barely time to swallow a few hasty lunches, and to be fresh at seven and as tired as a farm laborer. In the busy season he is frequently employed until midnight, and he could times is always liable to be disturbed, and this is the time that he is often preferred to that of the mechanic who is always sure of some wages, and better opportunities to make his way in the world.

ALLUDING to the rumors of the organization of vigilance committees in New York, the *Tribune* calls attention to the arrest of a man charged with the murder of Yellowlegs, and the committees, concluding with this backhanded compliment to the New York Judges:

"If the Judges have begun to feel uneasy, there are symptoms in the stories. No person—not even the Judges—seems to have any particular regard or respect for the law. Justice is a mere name. Everybody is ready to watch for the first indications of

THE *Herald* gives notice of "the approach of great religious revival," owing partly to financial depression. In sending us notice of the coming of hard times, however, the *Herald* has not indicated any remedy. We shall be curious to see what sort of religion it will be that springs from the *Herald*, and accepts it for its organ.

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THE Huntingdon *Globe* of this week nominates Hon. Daniel J. Morrell, member of Congress from the Seventeenth District, for Governor subject to the decision of the Republican State Convention, and gives the following reasons:

1st. We are tired of men who do not understand what the people of the State, want.

2d. Mr. Morrell is a business man.

3d. We want a business man in the Executive chair.

4th. Mr. Morrell is one of the largest manufacturers in the State, and is intimately acquainted with the wants of business men.

5th. He has always been a tariff man.

6th. He knows the laboring man, and has the ability to inaugurate measures calculated to benefit the laboring man as well as the manufacturer.

7th. He is a statesman without being a politician in the general acceptation of the term.

For these and many other reasons we urge the people of the State to consider the claims of Mr. Morrell, who has proved himself to have been eminently satisfactory to the people of Pennsylvania. No man in Congress stands higher than Mr. Morrell, and the Fifth District, for financial ability, and no man is looked up to for legislative aid in Congress more than he is, and he will be with more attending than the Hon. D. J. Morrell.

THE Harrisburg *Republican* suggests and highly endorses General John H. Hartranft as the Republican candidate for Governor.

A CONFEDERACY of the British West India Islands, in imitation of the not very successful experiment in the colonies north of us, is said to be under discussion by the Legislatures. The contemplated confederacy will have two subordinate Legislatures, one in Jamaica, which will include the Bermudas, Bahamas, and Turks and Caicos groups, and the other comprising Antigua, Dominica, St. Christopher, Anguilla, Montserrat, Nevis, Barbuda, and the Virgin Islands, also British Honduras in Yucatan; and Trinidad, Tobago, Grenada, the Windward Islands, Barbadoes, St. Vincent, Tobago, Grenada and St. Lucia, as also Trinidad and British Guiana, with the seat of the Legislature at Barbadoes. Confederation don't seem to agree with the Dominion, for Nova Scotia and Prince Edwards Islands are endeavoring to cover the bonds that unite them to the to isolation of Canada, and "annexation to the United" is now a favorite topic with the Blue Noses, who decried it as treason a few years ago.

MR. EVERETT JOHNSON'S Newcastle speech was of prodigious length. One of the London papers, which having Democratic sympathies can hardly generally admired His Excellency, and "took to it" as a duck to water. He is said to do his best all day, with barely time to swallow a few hasty lunches, and to be fresh at seven and as tired as a farm laborer. In the busy season he is frequently employed until midnight, and he could times is always liable to be disturbed, and this is the time that he is often preferred to that of the mechanic who is always sure of some wages, and better opportunities to make his way in the world.

ALLUDING to the rumors of the organization of vigilance committees in New York, the *Tribune* calls attention to the arrest of a man charged with the murder of Yellowlegs, and concluding with this backhanded compliment to the New York Judges:

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THE Trustees of this institution met on Tuesday, in the Lecture Room of the First Presbyterian Church of this city, and after mature deliberation decided by a vote of two-thirds that the College should be located in Washington. This town presented a legal additional subscription to the endowment fund of $20,000, which gives a total endowment of $200,000. It is also expected that the people of Washington county will contribute a sufficient sum to erect all necessary buildings.

The resignation of the President, Rev. Dr. Edwards, was accepted, and the Rev. S. J. Wilson, D.D., was elected President *pro tem.*

NEW YORK makes twenty-one States that have ratified the Fifteenth Amendment. They are as follows: Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, Florida, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, Arkansas, Louisiana and Kansas. The following States are morally certain to ratify before the year's close: Vermont, Connecticut, New Hampshire and Georgia. Rhode Island, Virginia, Mississippi and Texas will give us the residue that we need, and more too; and we hope for help also from Ohio, Indiana, California and Oregon. Success is almost beyond contingency. Land ho!

THE following is the latest pleasantry: At Evarts's dinner party on Saturday night Grant arrived late, and after taking a seat at the table was pleasantly taken to task for not coming earlier.

"Mr. President," said Evarts, "you had better hold a Cabinet meeting here now, as all the members are present, and settle those bothersome appointments."

"Yes," answered Grant, smiling pleasantly, "I see all those States. Coming north to the Southern States, from the Interior of New York, as well as from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware and Maryland, we have satisfactory accounts.

In regard to fruit culture, all acc

Weekly Commercial.

STATE NEWS.

Tioga county has but three licensed hotels. Fulton county has not even one.

Miss Ellen Beaton, of Salisbury, announces herself as a candidate for the Governing Superintendency of Northumberland county.

In a number of Pennsylvania villages, fish is well nourished by discharge the duties of the office.

The Forest Republican in the name of a new weekly paper printed at Tionesta by an association of Republicans.

The new Methodist Episcopal church, in Franklin, Venango county, will be dedicated April 25th. Bishop Simpson will conduct the services.

A stranger presented himself at the Kane Springs, outputting, on Friday evening, after every person had left the ground except the night watchman, and expressed a desire to see the spring and take the water at its source before going to bed. The watchman showed him in a common courtesy, no suspicion was excited, and he was admitted to the bathing establishment, through which he had to pass in reaching the spring. Seizing the favorable opportunity, he turned the attendant down the building, and following him, turned the key on the door, and locked him in. Then he was on the spring of the Kane Springs Company, and he proceeded to help himself to the principal. He counted the premiums during the night, and in the morning was a large sum richer than before. He was a large operating of locusts and had come to indulge in spring water. He left behind him a large stock of supplies. Some excitement was evinced, but no disturbance, and the people of Kane have dropped the idea of the resident agent and his employees.

The Altoona Tribune says: Some two weeks since we announced that a company of our citizens had intended a plan, to be attached to fire hydrants in cases of fire, by means of which the heat from the fire envelope and the water from the hydrant would be turned into steam, which would be admitted to the ring at the same time, and the water turned to steam in a moment. The plan is a good one, and we hope will be put into use, and in both places proved a perfect success.

Senator Nagle has presented a bill for the appointment of a special detective by the District Attorney of Philadelphia, whose duty it shall be to assist in obtaining such evidence as shall be necessary for the conviction of persons guilty of illegal voting at all criminal cases. Heretofore the District Attorney, a State officer, has been compelled to depend upon the willingness of the City Solicitor to furnish the necessary evidence to the District Attorney. In some sort of crimes, particularly those which affect property and the revenue of the city, the City Solicitor has no interest, and the District Attorney is consequently the police department of the city, and the City Solicitor is the police department of the county. In cases of election frauds, the police department of the city is the only one that can be relied upon, and therefore they are not forthcoming.

An incendiary fire Tuesday morning destroyed a lot of lumber belonging to Blumberg, Brother & Co., in Harrisburg, owned by E. H. Rinker. Insured for $1,000 in the North America Company.

The Syracuse Republican says: The brothers, Keefe, who left this city and for Europe in the Fremont summer which broke New York over, returned. The ninth brother, now in Europe, is the only one who voted for Lincoln, while seven sat with their native town after an absence of many years.

On Thursday, 8th inst., the boiler of a portable steam mill, near Wallaceton, Clearfield county, exploded, instantly killing Mr. Elijah Smeal owner, and Mr. Thomas Ross, fireman, besides severely injuring a third person who was also at work at the mill. The force of the boiler carried away the whole back part of the boiler, and all its body was otherwise torn to pieces, portions of the boiler being carried a great distance. Mr. Smeal literally had his brains dashed out, and his fireman had his leg broken, besides being otherwise injured. The third person had his leg broken, besides being otherwise injured. The cause of the explosion is unknown.

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Mrs. Nelson, of Fairfield township, Crawford county, died on Tuesday the 6th, in the ninety-fourth year of her age. She had been a resident of the county seventy-one years. Her maiden name was Thomas, and she was born in Baltimore county, Md. She was in early life a noted belle of Baltimore, and her social favors were sought after by many of the most prominent men of the day. She was married to Mr. Nelson, and her married life was spent in Crawford county. She was the mother of ten children, seven of whom survive her. She was a woman of many noble qualities of mind and heart, and her death will be sincerely mourned by a large circle of friends and relatives.

The Titusville Herald says: Messrs. Kimberly, Sutton & Co. are increasing the capacity of their refining mill to double what it was formerly. They are putting in new machinery throughout, and in operation and two more are being built. They have also recently built a large addition to their office, and are now putting in it engines and new mill machinery. This gives a total of four refineries and thirty-six mill stills, or one distillery, to be manufactured, besides the capacity of the mill.

The Altoona Tribune, editor and publisher, says: We have received a copy of the Altoona Herald, and in all it is a first class newspaper. Long life to the enterprising office, a handsome paper.

Elisha Cook, of Crawford county, was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Fogelsonger, on Friday, on a charge of having set fire to the Court House at Kingwood, West Virginia. It is said that he was employed by the County Court to build a fence around the Court House lot, and in a fit of drunken vengeance at the time, the circumstantial evidence is very strong against him.

On Saturday, April 3rd, fully three quarters of a mile of the road between Mt. Union and Huntingdon, on the farm in South Union township, about nine miles from Uniontown, Fayette county, was found to be impassable, and in some places dangerous. The road is building along a steep hillside, and the recent rains have caused the earth to wash away in many places, leaving the road in a very dangerous condition. Where the road is not washed away it is covered to the road.

The mill of Reed & Hoffman, in Venango county, was burned on Thursday night, with its contents. Loss $15,000; insured for $7,000. The mill was owned by the proprietors, and was run by steam. The fire originated from sparks falling on the roof.

The Erie Dispatch says: Mr. Thomas Ryan, of Franklin, has fed as a present to Mr. Lincoln a pair of fine Berkshire pigs, which are now on their way to Washington. The pigs are of the finest breed, and are said to be very handsome animals.

Mr. Jacob Hoffman, of Lancaster, has been appointed a special detective by the Internal Revenue Commissioner for the Southern District of Pennsylvania, with headquarters at Lancaster. The appointment is a good one.

The dwelling of George W. Lord, in Youngstown, a short distance from Brookville, was entirely destroyed by fire on Friday morning last. Loss between $2,000 and $3,000; insured.

The Legislature, in one day of Saturday week, "The act of Assembly, which empowers defendants to testify in their own behalf in civil cases, went into force yesterday, and the result was that a large number of witnesses were early in attendance upon the courts, and especially in the Quarter Sessions and Common Pleas courts, where the chief business of the day was transacted. In many cases the testimony of the plaintiff's attorneys. In numerous instances the parties to the suit were present, and although he was subjected to a severe cross-examination, no evidence was forthcoming in the case, and the plaintiff was compelled to rest with his keeper's record. "This is only a specimen of the good to be effected by our beautiful legislature."

T. B. Gowen, acting President of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company, has purchased the remaining one-half interest in the Tuscarora Coal Mines, for three hundred and ten thousand dollars.

B. B. Bradley, while superintending the drilling of a well on Church run, in the oil region, last Saturday, was seriously, if not fatally, injured by being caught in the bull rope.

John Germain was killed at Corry, on Tuesday morning, while standing on an engine on the O. C. and A. E. road to a baggage car. It appears that as the engine was backing up the latter, Germain got on the engine to see how far through his work.

A young lady at the Porterfield mill, near Tidioute, packs eight thousand shingles every day, and her brother each day, as much as the most of the men he employs. He began this trade but a few months, and says she will be ahead of him.

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Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, APRIL 24, 1869.

TERMS:

[illegible]

CUTTING LOOSE FROM OLD IDEAS.

Judging from present indications, it is not improbable that Britain, North America will fall into the line of the continue of Liverpool like a cigar case, without troubling the Continue so much as to stretch out her hand. When this event happens, as happen it will some day, it will be from self-interest rather than a change in the political sentiments of the people. From the tone of the press, it is clear that the loss of trade and commerce and the immediate causes of the deep discontentation which has at last become the subject of Canadian journals. One other cause, and a powerful reason in itself, in the sentiment here that the colonies do not harmonize, and that all the efforts of the crown have utterly failed to confer them contented under their present prospects. After exhausting all her efforts, the mother country has only been able to induce three of her five colonies to unite their fortunes. Between a confederation, Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia do not sometimes any busier than the people of Newfoundland and Prince Edward's Island. The case may be stated thus: were the present prosperous, with a fair prospect of continuing to prosper, the people would be contented and encouraging change. But they are not. Nova Scotia, for instance, buys annually from England twenty per cent more than she sells to her. When it are for her vast natural resources, the productiveness of her streams and lakes of fish, and of her hills and forests, she would not be able to make both ends meet. The money received from the United States in return for her products is immediately transmitted to England. The Province is thereby a mere exchange, without having even the satisfaction of knowing that she realizes any gain in the transaction. This picture may be said to represent the condition of affairs in each of the colonies. Thus it will be apparent to the dullest observer that in the present posture of affairs, the relative position of the colonies, as contrasted with that of England and the United States, may be compared to the gulf placed between the upper and lower millstone. This is a position that does not suit the people of the provinces. Therefore we find the St. John's *Globe* declaring that "the time is fast coming when this question of annexation must be argued on its merits." The St. John's *Express* says: "It is worse than useless to conceal the fact that a desire for annexation is fast spreading among people of all classes and parties." The Woodstock (N. B.) *Sentinel* says: "Would it look to Canada for a motive, *and so decide to be the United States for a motive?* The *North Star*, published at the capital of Prince Edward's Island, holds this language: "If our people are denied their just rights, they must and will demand annexation. *The author country must be such willing to accord the privilege.*" Throughout the Canadian press, the refrain is the same. The Toronto *Telegraph* employs the following pertinent language:

> "The time question is clear, with few differences of opinion. Canada has got to the end of her tether. She has no room for more expansion of any kind. There is no room for more population, and no room for more capital.

> "Here we have abundant reasons for believing that the future of Canada will ultimately be blended with that of the Republic. The change in public sentiment in some of the provinces is so sudden as to be remarkable. The idea that Canada would ever know be thrown to the United States as a step by Great Britain, in settlement of the Alabama claims, is based on very slight foundations. The entire possessions of Great Britain in North America seem less inclined to be disposed of in such a manner than we are to accept them as a salve for the injuries inflicted upon us. However the Alabama claims may be settled, it is clear to us that the future of British North America will not form any part of the discussion.

PHYSICIANS' PRESCRIPTIONS.

A nice question seems to have arisen between the physicians and druggists of the city, as we infer from the report of the proceedings of the Pharmaceutical Association published yesterday. The County Medical Society passed a resolution requesting druggists never to refill a prescription except upon the authority of the physician with whom it originated, and the druggists respond that they can see no reason for refusing to comply with the request provided the request is granted among the physicians, and the latter are informed of the arrangement. This raises the question of property in the prescription. To whom does the formula belong? Is it the property of the doctor, the druggist, or the patient? We are accustomed to regard that which we purchase as exclusively our own, whether it be absolutely in our possession or not. If we call upon a physician and pay him for a prescription, what claim has he upon it afterward? The drug can, it is true, be required to keep the secret, or become the custodian of it, by custom or by law, but does this give him a title to it, or even the original purchaser? It will not be denied that a patient, after paying for a prescription, may do with it as he pleases. He may use it or destroy it, and neither the physician nor druggist has a right to claim the slightest interference. Upon what principle, then, do they claim the right, after the patient has had the prescription filled, and paid for the same, to exercise ownership in it, or compel the original owner to go again to the physician for authority to refill? If the ownership of a recipe becomes absolute in the patient, as we believe it does, the simple filing the paper with an apothecary for the protection there not give the latter any legal title to it—especially such title as may operate to the pecuniary disadvantage of the owner. The druggist, however, has nothing to lose by refilling on the simple order of the patient, because he gets pay for his drugs, and there are few of them who will question either the right or the propriety of a man who presents the evidence of the ownership in the formula, to demand the prescription as often as may be desired. The pinch is with the doctors, who, it is supposed, imagine that the patients may injure themselves by taking too much medicine of one kind. There is not much danger of people hurting themselves by having the prescriptions of the "regulars" refilled, and it is a matter of some moment to the public to understand exactly what causes the doctors and the apothecaries are likely to pursue in regard to the matter. From what has already transpired it would seem that the decision is sure to allow refilling, provided the physicians have a general understanding to that effect, and the public are duly notified of the arrangement. We apprehend that such a conclusion will not be acquiesced in by the people without a very considerable amount of grumbling, and we very much doubt whether there will be a sufficient majority on the part of the druggists to enforce the regulation.

THE ADMINISTRATION.

It is reported that President Grant has been persuaded by Congressmen and Senators to make appointments that did not accord with his judgment, and that he is in hopes the Senate will restore the election with an unpacking meeting. When the President continues to bring over personal, we can have some conception of the kind and extent of the pressure brought to bear upon him, and how radically defective is the present system of making appointments. If we are made with the patient we may live a year. The stroke is usually personal interest, claims of friendship, and kindred considerations are usually at the bottom of the urgency with which applications are pressed in a great majority of cases. How easily is an ordeal to pass the applicants through for ascertaining their qualifications and fitness. The Senate is the second appeal with, but only in exceptional cases, even there is anything like an inquiry instituted. How the civil service stands is as easily wonderful. It is not at all surprising then to hear of the President unscrewing up his hands and declaring that he has forgotten how imposed upon and has at most lost confidence in men. The consequence of a system so vicious and corrupting, is that the public service in every branch is made to suffer from ignorance and want capacity in the less than one million of offices, which, though of a minor character, perform as important part in our governmental system. Take the collection of the internal revenue for instance: how vast must be the difference in the volume flowing into the Treasury if positive, fully capable and individually honest men, who cannot be bullied to be blind or disloyal, filled all the minor offices! And this is precisely what is most necessary, and will what is the present mode of making the appointments, in a majority of cases, it is unwise to expect. President Grant evidently realizes this, and we feel certain that the influence of the administration will be given in favor of that which the country will demand—a thorough revision of the civil service.

The speech of Mr. Sumner on the great question of our claims against England, however ill published, is such a document as is calculated to bring every true hearted American to his feet. We do not wonder that it excited with enthusiasm the entire Senate, with the solitary exception of Mr. McCreery of Kentucky, against the treaty. The force and gulp of the distinguished Senator's arguments and statements grind every British quibble to powder, and place the question on the broad and solid basis where it must be discussed and a settlement effected, if effected at all. We expect one no little satisfaction in finding the views which we have from time to time expressed on this question so broadly avowed and expounded in a quarter so able and authoritative, and in the connection we can not refrain from drawing attention to the fact that the Washington correspondent of the Commercial, one month ago, accurately stated the points of the speech and gave a liberal quotation therefrom, the speech having been in print so far back as the early days of March. That it reflects the views of President Grant, who, about the time of his inauguration, said that the question could not be settled by the payment of damages resulting from the destruction of a few ships, is important. In fact the Senate has drawn the American policy, epecially the American character, on purpose, and shaken out the American flag in a way that will secure for him the thanks of every true American heart.

The terrible indictment of England by Mr. Sumner for actually sounding belligerent rights to the South and extending a sympathy which was of the utmost value, is followed by by those opposed to according similar rights to the Cuban insurgents as affording conclusive reasons why we should not do so. The Southern press, while sympathizing with the cause of the insurgents, points out, in view of our position in regard to England's course in recognizing the South as belligerents, how inconsistent it would be in us to accord belligerent rights to the Cubans, especially at the present stage of the insurrection. The New Orleans *Picayune* puts the case as follows:

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